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## REPUBLICANS DELIVER BUSH PROPAGANDA LETTER **COSTING** **TAXPAYERS \$30.5 MILLION** **FEDERALLY-FUNDED CAMPAIGN LETTER IS A DISGRACE**

In an egregious example of the misuse of government funds, House Republicans went to extraordinary lengths this week to pass a bill that amounts to nothing more than a federally funded promotion for the Bush Administration — **with a price tag of \$30.5 MILLION out of taxpayer's pockets.**

This taxpayer-funded I.R.S. letter is truly shameless — **it has nothing to do with informing taxpayers and everything to do with ensuring that President Bush, who is cited in the letter, distorts his achievements.** The letter states that the President is providing “immediate tax relief in 2001 and long-term tax relief for years to come.” This may be true — but only if you're among the wealthiest taxpayers in the nation.

Here's what federal watchdogs are saying about this ridiculous, wasteful move by House Republicans:



**“It sounds like a P.R. piece for the administration,”  
“I’ve never heard of anything like this, certainly not from  
the I.R.S., certainly not with this rah-rah tone. It’s  
outrageous.”**

— Larry Noble, Center for Responsive Politics

**And when career, non-political I.R.S. officials saw the letter they couldn't believe their eyes.** They were deeply disturbed by the political tone of the letters and saw a distinct conflict of interest:

**“Congressional Democrats say they received a draft copy of the letter from outraged career employees of the Internal Revenue Service who, they say, were alarmed by what they considered its political, promotional tone.” (NYT, 6/20/01)**

Instead of spending **\$30.5 MILLION** on this shameless PR effort, the GOP could have joined Democrats in supporting an amendment by Ranking Appropriations Member David Obey (D-WI) that would have put these dollars to good use — into a program that coordinates drug-control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies.

**Some responsible GOP Members wanted to do the right thing and vote for the Obey amendment, but they were strong-armed by the GOP leadership** — convinced to switch their votes (after they had already cast against their votes against this ludicrous funding) in order to deliver this political favor for the President.

The GOP leadership should be ashamed of themselves.

# outrage of the week